

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA), voted for two bills, New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act and the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act. The two bills will be combined after passage to form one package. In addition, provisions from two bills Congressman Sestak authored were included in these energy bills. Both provisions help small businesses. — “Global warming and our addiction to oil are some of the greatest challenges of our time, putting at risk our economy, our environment, and our national security,” said Congressman Sestak. “We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now and this legislation does just that.”

These bills are important because they put us on the path to energy independence, which plays a key role in improving our national security. They will also grow our economy and create new jobs, lower energy prices, and begin to address global warming. Specifically, they make historic investments in biofuels and new energy technologies and innovation to create new jobs; improve energy efficiency for a wide range of products, lighting and buildings to reduce energy costs to consumers—and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than the annual emissions of all of the cars on the road in America today.

Congressman Sestak voted for the Udall-Platts amendment, to H.R. 3221, which requires 15 percent of all electricity sold in the US to come from renewable sources and energy efficiency. It defines alternative energy as solar (including solar water power), wind, ocean, tidal, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas or hydropower. It also allows four percent of that to come from other sources such as coal. On this issue, Pennsylvania is ahead of the country. In 2004 Governor Rendell (D) signed a law requiring 18 percent of electricity come from alternative energy with 10 percent from sources like renewable coal. However, Governor Rendell supports this bill and sees it as a good step for the country, which is why Congressman Sestak voted for both bills.

The legislation provides long-term incentives to expand production of homegrown fuels such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel, along with increasing the number of E-85 pumps for consumers with flex-fuel vehicles. It encourages manufacturers to build appliances that push the boundaries of efficiency, helps working families afford fuel-efficient plug-in hybrid vehicles, and helps businesses create energy-efficient workplaces. It supports the deployment of renewable energy by providing electric cooperatives and public power providers with new clean renewable energy bonds that will allow these entities to install facilities that generate electricity from renewable resources. It also helps states leverage tax credit bonds to implement low-interest loan programs and grant programs to help working families purchase energy-efficient appliances, make energy-efficient home improvements, or install solar panels, small wind turbines, and geothermal heat pumps. To pay for these renewable energy and conservation

incentives, the bill repeals approximately \$16 billion in tax breaks for oil and gas companies that were given during an era of record profits. To ensure that oil and gas companies are paying their fair share of taxes, it closes a tax loophole that allows big oil and gas companies to game the system by understating their foreign oil and gas extraction income. It also closes the “Hummer” Tax Loophole, fixing a serious mistake that provides an extra tax incentive for businesses buying luxury SUVs, while exempting vehicles that are used for legitimate business purposes.

It addresses global warming by encouraging the US to re-engage in and lead the effort to reach a global agreement that requires binding emissions reduction commitments from all the major emitters including China, India, and Brazil. It directs the federal government to promote U.S. energy exports in clean, efficient technologies to India and China and other developing countries. It creates a new position within the Department of State, the Ambassador at Large for Global Climate Change, to serve as the lead advisor to the President and Secretary of State on these issues. Moreover, it requires federal research, development, and demonstration on carbon capture and sequestration and promotes research on biofuels and bolsters research on solar energy, geothermal energy, and marine renewable energy. It authorizes a nationwide assessment of geological formations capable of sequestering carbon dioxide underground, as well as a review of the potential for carbon sequestration in ecosystems.

The following provisions will save taxpayers \$7.5 billion through 2030. This also will require the entire federal government, the largest energy consumer in the country, to be carbon-neutral by 2050. Agencies will have to evaluate what their current emissions are, freeze them in 2010 and reduce them by two percent each year after to reach zero in 2050. It requires the General Services Administration to use energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Federal buildings. It directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the potential for increased hydroelectric power generation at its facilities and directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to study its ability to respond to an increased natural disasters created or intensified by global climate change.

This legislation promotes conservation by encouraging people to take mass transit and states to carry out transportation projects that reduce air pollution, and increasing federal help for local governments to purchase alternative fuel buses, locomotives and ferries.

The energy legislation also includes the Small Energy Efficient Business Act (SEEBBA), legislation that Congressman Sestak co-sponsored, to modify existing Small Business Administration (SBA) programs to better assist small companies with adapting to today's changing energy environment. In addition, the Small Business Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007, a bill that the Congressman introduced and passed in the House, included a key provision for a new grant program for Small Business Development Centers to provide support to smaller and medium-sized businesses to evaluate energy efficiency and

"green" building opportunities, to secure financing to achieve energy efficiency or to construct green buildings, and to help these businesses improve environmental performance. This small business provision by Congressman Joe Sestak was also included in the energy bill.

"Small businesses are the first to be affected by rising energy prices and businesses tools they need to be more energy efficient and increase our energy independence, the bill increases loan limits to help small businesses develop energy efficient technologies and purchases, and increases investment in small firms that are developing renewable energy solutions. It also provides technical assistance to small businesses to reduce energy costs," said Congressman Sestak.

This legislation also incorporated ideas from The Green Jobs Act," a bill that I co-sponsored, which seeks to authorize up to \$125 million in funding to establish national and state job training programs, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, to help address job shortages that are impairing growth in green industries, such as energy efficient buildings and construction, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, and biofuels development. The Energy legislation creates a new Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program, which will train a quality workforce for good "green" jobs, such as solar panel manufacturers and green building construction workers. This investment in renewable energy could create 3 million "green collar" jobs.

Over the past three years, changes in our global economy have cost Pennsylvania's Seventh District 607 small businesses and one of five manufacturing establishments. Congressman Sestak believes that providing greater assistance to small businesses who are interested in entering new markets, both domestically and overseas, will help reverse these disturbing trends. Congressman Sestak has held several economic and education summits in the district, as well as one on women in business, with House Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez as a special guest.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.